[This transcript was created by LAI staff. It is as true a representation of the original as we could create. When a word was too difficult to decipher or was questionable we put those words in brackets. All text in brackets represents the voice of the transcriber rather than the voice of the letter writer. We have not maintained the spacing that exists in the original letters because that was not compliant with our accessibility standards. We are left justifying most lines.]

[citation information]
Collection title: Corcoran Gallery of Art and Corcoran College of Art + Design, Corcoran Gallery of Art directors' records
collection number: COR-0002-0-RG
Series 1: MacLeod, Barbarin and McGuire records
Subseries 1: Indexed correspondence
Box 2008-001
Folder 60: Letters 591-600

[Letter 591]

[Transcriber's note: The page is ripped and missing two large pieces, as well as some smaller areas along the creases. Some of the writing is missing because of it.]

[Back of Letter 591]
[Missing text]
[Missing text] [Y]ale School of Fine Arts.
[Missing text] New Haven May 10/75.
[Missing text] 5.

[Missing text] k g receipt of Photographs.

[Front of Letter 591]
[Separate notation in red] Recd. May 12/75

Yale School of the Fine Arts
Yale College New Haven
May 10th 1875

Mr Wm MacLead-
Dear Sir
Please accept my thanks for the photographs d [missing text] to this school by the Trustees of the Corcoran Art Gallery. They are very beautifully taken, and certainly represent an admirable [?] for a collection. If the Trustees exhibit Mr. [James?] good judgement [thought?] as they have in the works added to the Collection [illegible word] [illegible word] part par. My cause & fail to [build?] up a noble institution.

Very truly yours
Jno F [Muoi?]

[Letter 592]

[Back of Letter]
Walters, N. J.
Balt. May 10. 1875
May 11 11/75.

Thinks the Electrotypes are not on the Steamer just in.
Thinks cases had better not be ordered until they arrive.

[Front of Letter 592]
[in red] Recd & ansd
May 11/75.

Balto 10th 75
Mr W MacLeod
[Illegible word]
The steamer is in having sailed from Southampton 24th--6 days after the [Electrotypes?] were said to have been shipped from London--as they dont appear on the manifest I fear they are not on board. The next steamer will not arrive before 10 days,
It appears

[Page 2]
To me it would be more safe not to order the case or cases until the [illegible word] [row?] on the way arrives that we may make more accurate judgement about their size.

Packages sometimes found by steamers and are omitted from the manifest. I will look into the matter tomorrow--it is however not probable the are on board--

[Page 3]
Yourfod [Your friend ?]
WL. Wallers

[Letter 593]

Sartain John,
Philadelphia May 7. 1875
May 8 20/75.

With regard to the St. [Memin?] collection of portraits.
The Collotype

[Printed return address Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Return, if not called for in 5 days.]

[Page 4]
My successors in the manipulation with succeed after a little time in making pictures that will receive general acceptance as a substitute for the Photograph, inasmuch as the Collotype will not fade, being made with Printing ink, and does not need mounting, thus not merely saving expense but possessing the advantage of lying perfectly flat and solid in a pile, or a bound book, and this mounted printed will never do. It is a permanent and economical print, but at present does not give all the detail or the richness that a photograph on albumerized paper does, such for example as those beautiful things you have just presented to our Academy. Both processes have their beginning in a photographic negative and success depends mainly on the good quality of it.
Yours truly
John Sartain

[Page 1]

[Separate notation: Rec.d May 8th/75. Answ. at Mr. Corcoran's Request May 20/75]

[Letterhead: Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts,
Philadelphia, May 7th 1875]
Wm. MacLeod Esqre
Dear Sir
Yours of yesterday is just received. The most that appears to be known respecting St. Memin is what I learned in 1830 when some of his plates were brought to me to strengthen up and repair by members of private families who owned them. He was a titled gentleman of France who was stripped of his property by the political convulsion of the close of the last century. He came here to obtain a living, having found England overcrowded by people of his own class. He had acquired skill in the accurate and minute style of drawing, as an amateur, and added to it quite a mastery in the use of the graver, (of as the French term it__the burin) the rule, and the mezzotinto grounding tool or rocker, I should say, also of the mezzotinto scraper

[Page 2]
For without this last his other knowledge of manipulation would have availed him little. This, added to an untiring spirit of appreciation enabled him to make money by furnishing engraved portraits at $30. each. Of course that price at that day would be equivalent to four times the sum now. I was told that he made and saved money, passing from city to city, having in each used up most of the available material in the shape of patronage.

In the true artistic sense his work has very little value, but it would be a real calamity if an accident could annihilate them all, for I have no doubt the collection embraces many eminently worth preserving, of whom no other likeness exists. Horace Smith, grandson of Provost Smith of the Pa. University [University of Pennsylvania] (and more than any other many, the founder of it) posses a complete set of the St. Memin heads with the names attached, but I have never had time to look through them. My son Henry

[Page 3]
Owns quite a number of the plates themselves, I forget how many, but perhaps thirty of forty. For truthfulness and minute accuracy they cannot be surpassed by mere handiwork, and I was told that he used the assistance of a mechanical appliance for expediting his drawing and ensuring fidelity. His backgrounds are laid in with the grounding tool, his coats with the same but with the graver in the extreme darks. The faces are worked in with the rulet, used in the manner of a pencil, the outlines of all the features being defined with the graver. I admire them exceedingly, but as I said before, not for any artistic merit displated. Although all alike, they are unremarkable for strict individuality.
You ask how I progress with the Collotype. I have given it no attention & the proprietors of the patent have sold it.

[End of Letter 593]

[Letter 594]

Treasury, Asst. Secty of,
May 11. 1875.

With regard to the examination of the three cases to arrive in Baltimore for the C. G of A. [Corcoran Gallery of Art?]

[Page 2]
2
With returned.
I am.
Very respectfully,
C.F. Burnam,
Assistant Secretary.

[Page 1]
[Letterhead: All Official Letters to the Department proper must be addressed to the “Secretary of the Treasure,” and in replying to Letters from the Department the initials on the upper left-hand corner should be referred to.
Treasure Department, [handwritten initials A.J.] Washington, D.C., May 11th, 1875.]

[Transcriber's note: There are two small notations in the left and right corners, just below the "All Official Letters…" statement. On the left, it appears to be "wjc" and on the right it appears to be w.o.a."]

Sir:-
As requested in your letter of the 10th instant, the Collector at Baltimore has been instructed to allow certain three cases, containing works of art, imported for the Corcoran Gallery of Art, per "Leipzig," to be forwarded, under warehouse and transportation bond and customs seal, without examination at that port.
The Collector as Georgetown has been directed to cause the necessary examination and appraisement of the contents of said cases to be made, and on their arrival at the Gallery you will please notify him.
The bill of lading enclosed in your letter is here.

A. Hyde Esq.
Secretary Corcoran Gallery of Art,
Washington D.C.

[Letter 595]

[Back Page]
Walter, W.J.
Balt. May 12. 1875
May 13 13/75,
The Cases have arrived and will be examined in Baltimore.

[Front Page]
[Separate notation in red: Recd. May 13./75 & ansd.]
Balto 12th May 75
[Sir?] MacLeod
The [case?] have come and will go down in [?]--The things will be examined here and I will be [pleased?] s, as to assure card, so that in with have any trouble they reach you,
[Yours?]
W.J. Walters
Did you see in NY [or MY?]
Post of May 7th in letter

[Page 2]
From Boston a very such criticism of the Kaemmerer s om "Beach at [Schevenfer?]."
[Transcriber's note: Possibly Frederick Hendrik Kaemmerer's "Beach at Scheveningen"]

[Letter 596]

Walters W.J.
Balt. May 14. 1875.
May 15/75

With regard to an article in the Post.
The cases were sent May 13.

[Page 1]
[Separate notation in red: Rec'd May 15/75]
Balto 14th May 75
Dear Mr MacLeod
I feel perfectly sure about the article being in Post of 7th May, and I believe it was the daily--whilst as you suggest it might have been in the daily-it may have been omitted from the semi weekly--I feel pretty certain I can get the paper tomorrow--and will send it to you--The cases

[Page 2]
Went down yesterday,
I expect to see you Monday.

Your friend
WJ. Walters

[Letter 597]

Moran Thomas.
Newark, May 12/74/
May 17/75.

Will send his picture, "The Mountain of the Holy Cross" to arrive at the Gallery on the 25th.

[Return address at the bottom: "Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Return, if not called for in 5 days."]

[Separate notation in red: Recd. May 17/75]
Newark May 12th 1875
Mr. W. MacLeod
Dear sir
I will send the picture of the "The Mountain of the Holy Cross" to the Gallery so as to arrive on the 25th of this month. I had hoped to have sent the picture earlier But at the urgent request of a number of New Yorker I have kept it on exhibition longer than I at first intended. It has been a decided great success in New York with the artists. All conceding to it the highest praise.

Yours truly
T.Moran.

[Letter 598]

Henry, Prof.
May 18/75,

Telegram

Wishes address of Bogart, Electrician,

[Return address at the bottom: “Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Return, if not called for in 5 days.”]

[Transcriber’s note: Telegram is not included.]

[Letter 599]

Hart, James M.
212 5th Ave New York,
May 17. 1875
May 18 19/75

Has recrd photograph & returns check for $12.

[Letter]
[Separate notation in red: Recd. May 18th/75 ansd. “ 19. “]

[Letterhead: 212 Fifth Avenue, New York, May 17 1875]

Wm Macleod. Esq.
My Dear Sir
Your letter. postal [?]. and the package of photographs came to hand at about the same hours to day. I am very much pleased at reciting the portrait of Mr. Corcoran as a present from you it shall go among my treasures,
I enclose check for $14, in payment of my dozen photos. With many thanks
Yours very truly
James M. Hart

[Letter 600]

Metropolitan Museum of Art.
New York May 18/75
May 19 21/75,
[In red, as a notation: W.J. Happin Sect. Thos Bland, Asst. Secty.]

Enclosing official acknowledgements of recpt of photographs. and notice that several photographs with a handbook. would be sent in a few days to the Corcoran Gallery of Art.

[Page 1]
[Separate notation in red: Rec'd May 19/75 ansd. " 21/75]
[Letterhead: "Metropolitan Museum of Art, 128 West Fourteenth Street, N.Y."]

May 17"/1875
My Dear Sir:
I take great pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of several photographs from work in the Corcoran Gallery of Art including one from a portrait of its distinguished founder, for all which I am instructed to present the cordial thanks of the Trustees of our Museum.
I am also directed to transmit to your institution several photographs from works owned by the Metropolitan Museum on loaned to it for Exhibition

[Reverse of Letter 600]
and also a copy of the Hand Book of the Pottery & Porcelain

I remain
Very respectfully
Your
Wm.J Happin
Secretary

Wm. MacLeod Eq
Curator

[Acknowledgement Letter]
Metropolitan Museum of Art,
No. 128 West Fourteenth Street.
New York, May 10 1875
The Trustees have received
Photographs of W.W. Corcoran Esq.
From Portrait by Elliott and other
Photographs.
A Gift from

The Corcoran Gallery of Art
For which they return a grateful acknowledgment.
John Taylor Johnston President.
WmJHappin Secretary.

[Reverse of Acknowledgment Letter]
Metropolitan Museum of Art,
New York May 10/75

Official acknowledgement of the receipt of Photographs.

[Additional letter included with Letter 600]
[Separate notation in red: Recd. May 19/75 ansd. " 21/"]
[Letterhead: Metropolitan Museum of Art. 128 West Fourteenth Street, N.Y.]
18 May 1875
Wm. MaecLeod [Esq?]
Curator
Corcoran Gallery of Art
My Dear Sir,
I have most pleasure in [forwarding?] the accompanying documents. To the copy of the Hand Book, I add one of the Catalogue of the Pictures belonging to the Museum with the Supplement (at the end) lately published.
With the Hand Book [provided?] I am sure be pleased- it was written for me by Mr. Wm. [L?] [O'Brine?]. It possesses much general interest, irrespective of the reference to our Collection.

[Page 2]
In a few [day?], I [expect?] an addition to our stock of Photographs, and copies of all shall be forwarded,-from time to time, and more are published, where will be such of the Corcoran Gallery.
It is possible that inquiry may be made as to [the?] price charged for the Hand Book,- it is [fifty?] cents [illegible word] [today?].
I am, my dear Sir,
Truly yours
[Wm?] [Blacker?]
Aso.t Secty. [Associate Secretary?]